

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 11, 2021 Contact: Rep. Jill Billings, (608) 266-5780

Rep. Billings Votes to Move UW-La Crosse Renovation Project Forward

Wisconsin State Building Commission approves funding for La Crosse Renovation Project

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – Today, the Wisconsin State Building Commission approved funding for one UW-La Crosse project. Jill Billings (D-La Crosse), Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the State Building Commission, voted in favor of approving the funds.

The project approved will renovate 15,090 GSF in Mitchell Hall to expand and enhance three heavily used instructional laboratories serving UW-La Crosse's nationally accredited athletic training programs. The current underutilized locker room will be repurposed into an instructional Athletic Training lab, the former wrestling room will be converted into instructional and laboratory space to serve as the new Exercise and Sport Science Lab, and the existing Human Performance Lab will be expanded to meet the needs of the current curriculum and research as well as provide clinical health and training support to the university's award-winning athletics program.

"Construction on campus, means an uptick in jobs and our local economy," said Rep. Jill Billings. "I'm glad to have the opportunity to support this project to meet the needs of instructors and students on the UW-La Crosse campus."

This project will demolish most interior walls and the areas will be reconstructed into three large spaces with new ceiling, lighting, finishes, casework, and sinks along the perimeter walls where appropriate. A new air handling system, including air conditioning, will be installed as part of the project. These mechanical systems will be designed to accept future chilled water supply for cooling once the utility work for that supply is completed to the building.

"I always appreciate the opportunity to support building and maintenance projects on the UW-La Crosse campus," continued Rep. Billings. "By updating the existing buildings on campus, we will ensure that students, faculty, and staff will continue to have a safe and functional place to work and learn into the future."

A full description of the project can be found on pages 62-65 of the <u>State Building Commission Agenda</u>.